

U.S. Serial No. 10/705,411 filed 11/10/2003
Response to Restriction Requirement
April 12, 2006
Page 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4 and 16-18 from further consideration herein.

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. – 4 (cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A conveyance system for conveying a particulate substance from a removable particulate storage component to a predetermined station, wherein said removable particulate storage component comprises a valved wall element and is configured to define an enclosed space for containing a particulate substance, said valved wall element comprising a valve member defining an outflow aperture for providing a flow path for the flow of particulate material out of said enclosed space, said valve member further comprising a plug element and a bias element, said plug and bias elements being configured such that said plug is displaceable between a closed position and an open position whereby when said plug is in said closed position said plug closes off said outflow aperture whereby particulate substance is unable to flow out of said enclosed space through said outflow aperture and when said plug is in said open position particulate substance is able to flow out of said enclosed space through said outflow aperture,

said conveyance system comprising
a particulate delivery component,
wherein said particulate delivery component comprises a conveyor element for conveying particulate substance from the replaceable particulate storage component to said predetermined station, and wherein said particulate delivery component further

U.S. Serial No. 10/705,411 filed 11/10/2003
Response to Restriction Requirement
April 12, 2006
Page 3

comprises an interconnect element for releasably interconnecting the conveyor element and the outflow aperture of said valve member for the flow of particulate substance through the outflow aperture to the conveyor element
said conveyance system further comprising a support component, and wherein said support component is configured for releasably engaging said removeable storage component such that the storage component is oriented so that the valved wall member at least partially forms the bottom of the so engaged storage component.

6. (Previously presented) A conveyance system as defined in claim 5 wherein said particulate delivery component comprises a valve plug interaction element for releasably maintaining the plug element of said valve member in said open position.

7. (cancelled).

8. (Previously presented) An conveyance system as defined in claim 5 wherein said conveyance system comprises said removeable particulate storage component.

9. – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A beverage machine for dispensing a beverage, said beverage machine comprising a mixing station communicating with a dispensing station, a particulate delivery component for delivery of particulate substance from a removable particulate storage component to said mixing station, and an aqueous medium delivery means for delivering aqueous medium to said mixing station,

wherein said removable particulate storage component comprises a valved wall element and is configured to define an enclosed space for containing a particulate substance, said valved wall element comprising a valve member defining an outflow aperture for providing a flow path for the flow of particulate material out of said enclosed space, said valve member further comprising a plug element and a bias element, said plug and bias elements being configured such that said plug is displaceable between a closed position and an open position whereby when said plug is in said closed position said plug closes off said outflow aperture whereby particulate substance is unable to flow out of said enclosed space through said outflow aperture and when said plug is in said open

U.S. Serial No. 10/705,411 Filed 11/10/2003
Response to Restriction Requirement
April 12, 2006
Page 4

position particulate substance is able to flow out of said enclosed space through said outflow aperture.

characterized in that said beverage machine comprises a conveyance system, wherein said conveyance system comprises

said particulate delivery component,

wherein said particulate delivery component comprises a conveyor element for conveying particulate substance from the replaceable particulate storage component to said mixing station, and wherein said particulate delivery component further comprises an interconnect element for releasably interconnecting the conveyor element and the outflow aperture of said valve member for the flow of particulate substance through the outflow aperture to the conveyor element

said conveyance system further comprising a support component, and

wherein said support component is configured for releasably engaging said removeable storage component such that the storage component is oriented so that the valved wall member at least partially forms the bottom of the so engaged storage component.

20. (Currently amended) A beverage machine as defined in claim 19 wherein said particulate delivery component comprises a valve plug interaction element for releasably maintaining the plug element of said valve member in said open position.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) An conveyance system as defined in claim 19 wherein said conveyance system comprises said removeable particulate storage component.

23. (Previously presented) A beverage machine as defined in claim 19 wherein said particulate substance is a particulate milk substance.

24. (New) A conveyance system as defined in claim 5 wherein said support component comprises a support well for receiving said storage component.

25. (New) A conveyance system as defined in claim 5 wherein said conveyor element comprises a screw conveyor.

U.S. Serial No. 10/705,411 filed 11/10/2003
Response to Restriction Requirement
April 12, 2006
Page 5

26. (New) A beverage machine as defined in claim 19 wherein said support component comprises a support well for receiving said storage component.

27. (New) A beverage machine as defined in claim 19 wherein said conveyor element comprises a screw conveyor.